

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Applicant notes that the foregoing amendments to the present claims were presented in Applicant's Response to Final Office Action, filed March 23, 2010 but were not entered. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, the following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended): A cemented carbide material for a surface coated gear cutting tool which is employed in a substrate for a surface coated gear cutting tool obtained by forming a hard coated layer on a surface of said substrate,

said cemented carbide material for a surface coated gear cutting tool comprising a WC- β t-Co based cemented carbide,

wherein a content of Co forming a binder phase of said cemented carbide material for a surface coated gear cutting tool is in a range of 12 to 17 wt%,

wherein among components of a β t solid solution forming a hard phase of said cemented carbide material for a surface coated gear cutting tool, a content of components excluding WC is in a range of 15 to 20 wt%, and a total content of Ta carbonitride and Nb carbonitride is in a range of 5 to 7 wt%,

wherein said β t solid solution comprises: TiC; TiN; Ta carbonitride; and Nb carbonitride, and

wherein a Nb content D_{Nb} and a Ta content D_{Ta} in said β t solid solution satisfy a relational expression of $D_{Nb}/(D_{Nb}+D_{Ta}) \geq 0.7$. and

wherein said cemented carbide material is employed as a substrate for a surface coated gear cutting tool obtained by forming a metal carbonitride hard coat layer on a surface of said substrate.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original): A cemented carbide material for a surface coated gear cutting tool according to claim 1, wherein a fracture toughness at room temperature is in a range of 9.5 to 13 MPa(m)^{1/2}.

4. (Original): A surface coated gear cutting tool comprising a cemented carbide material for surface coated gear cutting tools according to claim 1.

5-8. (Canceled)